



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

May 6, 2020

The Honorable Ken Paxton
Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

RE: Concerns related to beef packers pricing

Dear General Paxton:

I am requesting your attention to examine the potential of beef industry price fixing involving U.S. meat packers. As you are undoubtedly aware, meat prices for our Texas farming and ranching livestock producers are currently depressed. However, U.S. meat packers may make a hugely greater profit on an animal it possesses for a matter of hours than the now meager profit (or loss) a Texas cattleman receives for nurturing a cow for a whole year to produce the calf which will end up at the packer.

These circumstances have become unacceptable and almost impossible for the Texas cattle producer and the supported industry in Texas. I have enclosed a letter to United States Attorney General Barr from the states of North Dakota, Colorado, Missouri, and Montana that more specifically addresses the issue of price fixing.

I am encouraging you to examine joining in the legal efforts to protect to Texas' farmers and ranchers.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sid Miller
Commissioner